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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Saturday, 3rd March.

ANOTHER MINISTERIAL CRISIS.
There has been a long struggle for the election from office of Mr. Forster and his colleagues. At length it has proved successful.

The Ministerial Bill for the establishment of an Elective Upper House was last week rejected, it will be remembered, by a majority of three. A resignation was looked for, but in vain. On Tuesday Ministers met the House as usual. An explanation, but Mr. Forster could not give one, might adjourn if they pleased. He would offer no opposition. But he would afford no explanation until he came to the Government business of the following day.

A new act of rebellion against the supremacy of parliamentary votes was, however, added to the list, in the shape of a message from the Governor-General to the effect that the resolutions of the House in reference to the Panama line would not be carried out without an appeal to the home Government.

On Wednesday came the looked-for "explanation." It was plain enough in all conscience. Ministers would not go out without a direct vote of want of confidence; but, if left alone, would get through the Estimates, and dissolve the House. A vote of confidence was offered, if they would go to the country at once, but the offer was not accepted.

Here, then, was a direct challenge. It was speedily taken up, and a vote of "want of confidence" was passed by a majority of eight.

After the Ministerial crisis, the Premier at once moved an adjournment, and early on Thursday placed the offices of himself and colleagues at the disposal of the Governor-General.

We have some reason to believe that a few very nice arrangements had been discussed and settled before all this, in anticipation of this result, but they are all knocked on the head for the present by the unexpected turn which things have taken.

It so happened that some of those who may fairly be considered as leaders of the Opposition had taken a very decided lead on this occasion. The retiring Premier consequently gave no advice as to who should be "sent for," and the Governor-General, left to make his own choice, now it is too late to have done so.

It so happened that Sir Daniel Cooper, who had been long elevated above politics in the Speaker's chair, and who since his retirement from the chair has been showing himself a most able and able man, appeared in the ranks of the Opposition when the Upper House Bill was debated, and made a speech against the Forster Ministry. On Tuesday, again, when it was given, it was a most able and able speech, and it was a most able and able speech.

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The ex-Ministers might have looked for a pretty severe dressing upon the Panama route question, but they have got out of the way in time.

All the great questions of the session are to stand over for some months longer, even to the State-aid Abolition Bill, for the battle on which so much has been expected.

There was an enthusiastic public meeting in support of the principle involved in this bill on Monday evening, at which a committee was appointed in furtherance of the object.

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Mr. Parfitt was drowned, and the other members of the party were saved with difficulty. The palpable cause of this loss of life was the want of a proper look-out on the part of the Blue Bell. The coroner's jury have declared as much, yet their verdict has not been followed by any committal.

Now it so happens that there has been a committal, during the week, for homicide through negligence. A butcher, named John, over a Mr. Parfitt, aged sixteen, as she was walking, under sunset, with some others, in the roadway, and the injuries which she then received resulted in death. Only two men were committed to trial. A correspondent of the *Herald* has commented in terms naturally strong, upon the different mode in which these two cases have been dealt with.

Further efforts are being made in various directions for the relief of sufferers from flood, and there is little doubt that the necessary amount of funds will be raised in this way.

The popular excitement in reference to the Snowy River gold-fields has increased, rather than diminished. It is a singular fact, however, that the adventurous gold-seekers of the city and suburbs reject, as false or exaggerated, all that is said in the public journals as to the impossibility of working at these diggings during winter, while the countrymen accept as gospel all that comes from the same source as to the quantity of gold which is to be had for the digging.

Recent accounts tend to cast a doubt as to the extent to which the gold-seekers have been covered, and as prospecting cannot very well be carried on during the winter, a great deal of distress may be pretty confidently looked for. We would still, as ever, would be miners to wait until spring, when there is really some chance of auriferous country as we are led to expect, there will be still room enough for all, and decent weather is work in.

The accounts from the Gilmanby diggings are conflicting, but upon the whole rather ugly. Even the Chinese, it is reported, are leaving. There is a reported discovery of gold in the Shoalwater, but there is evidence as yet as to whether there is a field worth working. The Government reward for such discoveries, which has been determined upon, will make prospectors more eager to magnify their discoveries, and should make the general belief, that the Government is not so much in the habit of looking for them as they are.

The annual examination of students for matriculation in the Sydney University began on the 14th and closed on the 15th ultimo. Twenty-two students were matriculated. The examinations for scholarships for the first year also took place at the same time. The successful candidates were Messrs. Griffith, Mein, and Murray.

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A voluntary tea meeting has also been held at the Centenary Chapel, where the Rev. Mr. Thomas, who proceeds to Europe after thirty years' successful labour as a missionary at the Friendly Islands.

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A VISIT TO THE NORTHERN GOLD-FIELDS.

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.]

No. X.

Few parts of New South Wales present such a rugged and broken aspect as the country intersected by the Lower Touloume, having its source in an irregular mass of minor hills at the base of the great Macpherson range, a little to the westward of Mount Lindsay. It flows through a comparatively level conglomerate district for about sixteen miles, when it meets the advanced ranges from the westward, through the upheaval of the schists and flagstones; through these its waters have either excavated a deep channel sixteen miles in length to the Clarence River, or followed the course of a natural channel running north and south. I rather incline to the opinion that the bed of the stream has lowered with the degradation of the carboniferous formations further north, and that the deep channels and stupendous ravines with which the district abounds are chiefly the result of fluvial action. If such is the case gold may be looked for on the slopes of the ranges, at that point where the inferior sandstones and the schists come into contact.

At the spot where the stream leaves the lower series of the carboniferous formations, it makes several remarkable detours round mountain masses, not gaining more than a mile of southing in a course of six miles. It is at this point, on the verge of the country, that the main claim is situated.

After entering the schistose formation, the stream holds its way over a channel, obstructed by huge fragments of the rocks in situ, and crossed by ledges of agestone, the joints of cleavage and stratification dipping from ten to fifteen degrees to the southward are against the stream, which affords the floods an increased facility for breking up the rocks and removing obstructions. The channel is flanked on either by mountains cleft to their crest, the precipitous elevations of which exhibit a section of the various formations with their planes of upheaval and metamorphism. The base to the partially-transmitted sandstones on their summit. Opposing these precipices, at intervals, are mountains, having a steep, graduated slope to the edge of the main claim, and a deep ravine, which has been worked by gorges and deep ravines, which pour their tributary floods into the main channel.

Gold is found in the Touloume from the first appearance of the schistose rocks, and extends all along its course from that point to the junction of the Clarence, the largest accumulations having been discovered in the banks below the places where the schistose rocks fall into the stream. The schistose rocks, which are chiefly composed of mica-schist, are found in long shaly beds at the base of the alpine mountains. Hugh McLean's claim, one of the richest on these waters, was situated on one of these bars, with the advantage of a mountain stream coming in from the west, and a deep ravine, which has been worked by gorges and deep ravines, which pour their tributary floods into the main channel.

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dense foliage, their course frequently diverted by the falling in of the loose banks. These streams have produced a great deal of gold, and shafts have been sunk in their channels at intervals until they enter the sea. The richest places are below the junction of the two ravines where McLean's valuable claim is situated, and where his party continue to obtain a rich reward for their industry, chiefly from the alluvial banks. A number of men are employed on these watercourses, with average success; there is an indication of payable dirt sinking in the upper part of the scrub. Several parties have sunk shafts in the lower flat to a depth of forty-five feet through the alluvium, but did not bottom on anything payable; there may be, however, a lead to the main creek which will eventually be discovered.

In this neighbourhood are Wilson's and Fraser's creeks, both of which are rich in gold. There is a small party of gold diggers; there is some rich surfacing on the tops and slopes of the hills, but far removed from water. Every dry watercourse contains its portion of gold.

Following the Touloume from this point to the junction, its channel is broad with frequent angles, and wide bars as already described. Half-a-mile down stream is the claim of James McLean, who has been carrying on profitable sluicing operations for six months, and has twelve months' work before them. You then arrive at a succession of claims of a similar description, but not quite so productive, until you reach a small party who have worked for years on their bar, and are said to be making average wages. A mile lower down, passing several unoccupied flats, you reach a long alluvial spur, at the point of which the Touloume angles its stream with that of the Clarence. Here a party of Chinese have established themselves, and have made some deep excavations. They said that there was plenty of work and little cost; beyond this party the digger has not extended.

Returning to the camp, we now direct our course up stream, which is no easy matter, the track leading over broken rocks, and frequently crossing and recrossing the stream. For distance you will find but few parties of Europeans at work, but there are several more of Chinese re-working abandoned claims. Every favourable patch of ground appears to have been worked over, and the result is a claim above him the ground is now densely occupied for about a quarter of a mile; it increases in value as you approach Joe's Gully, at the mouth of which the heaviest workings have been found.

At Joe's Gully, three miles long, heads in the auriferous range to the westward, under the lower strata of ancient sandstones and conglomerates, and before it reaches the main stream it cuts deeply into the conglomerate, and has five or six miles of the close vicinity of the granites. The last quarter of a mile of its course has been exceedingly rich, and gold has been obtained for a considerable distance higher up the stream. The auriferous range, which is a long, narrow, and where it becomes barren. Some of the ramifications have been recently worked with favourable results.

There is a quartz reef crossing the head of the gully from north to south, which is supposed to be unproductive. The auriferous range, which is a long, narrow, and where it becomes barren. Some of the ramifications have been recently worked with favourable results.

The auriferous portion may probably have been exhausted by degradation, or its wealth, if it ever possessed any, may have been carried off in the sand. The formation of this locality is an exact counterpart of the neighbourhood of the Burdett reef.

There is the same transverse sandstone resting upon metamorphic schists at a similar angle, and it is highly probable that the auriferous range, which is a long, narrow, and where it becomes barren. Some of the ramifications have been recently worked with favourable results.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 103-107.

day clock, large copper boiler, lead cistern, chev.¹¹
and other glassess, tools of trade, &c.
Without reserve for cash.

Both these requisites if success—industry and largeness of aim—are aptly illustrated by Mr. Smiles, whose profusion of biographical anecdotes seems inexhaustible. But there is a third requisite of success, which of him would we say that he bestow less attention. Those who wish to succeed must never be above their business. Deficiency in this requisite probably accounts for very many of the failures of the men of high education who have failed to succeed. Both descriptions of persons are accustomed to live with persons already at the top of the tree. They pass over in their imagination the earlier steps of success, and habitually fancy themselves where they think they ought to be, and where those with whom they are most familiar actually are. A field of action is not seen in life. He used to get up early and take rest late. He studied grammars and dictionaries at odd hours—he kept a model in one pocket, and a scheme for a patent in another. He succeeded, and his success was due to his habits of industry and of learning. He mixes with his father and his father's friends, and hears that the model has long been working, and the patent has brought in oceans of money. It seems to him, if he had not been so diligent, that he grew up inevitably, like wild flowers as if he could gather them as many as he pleased. And he practicable labour in the direction of his father's success was more than his own. His grating and contemptible. He is not going to walk about with a little ill-cut machine in his pocket when he has done so much and seen the big machine that has done so much more. He is not going to let his high education tends to make men retire from active life. It is not that they are too conceited to take low work. They are so accustomed to the life to which low work ultimately leads, that they are not surprised to find a great downfall as the mean, plodding beginnings of professional industry. They do not like to take up new subjects, they go into details to which they are wholly unaccustomed. The consequence is that they do not succeed. A sort of conservatism, which is very often allied to high attainments, is in many cases not an indispensable element of success, and they either could not obtain this, or would not if they could.

the service of the Coast Guard, both as an element of protection against surprise, and as a valuable adjunct to the already extensive arrangements for the safety of life. A very important application of the light is its adaptation to the mining service, by which the safety of the miner will be effectually secured by the enclosure of the light, and its supply with oxygen gas, without the necessity for direct communication with the surrounding atmosphere. With respect to the important question of expense, it was stated that the

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EDWARD GRIFFITH, hon. secretary.

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